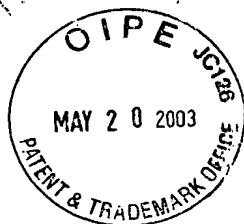


#19
Amendt E



MPG-1 DIV1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Georgia L. Helmer
Group Art Unit : 1638
Applicant(s) : Michael Wassenegger, et al.
Application No. : 09/782,874 Confirmation No. : 6565
Filed : February 8, 2001
For : NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING
POLYPEPTIDES HAVING THE ENZYMATIC
ACTIVITY OF AN RNA-DIRECTED RNA
POLYMERASE (RdRP)

New York, New York 10020
May 20, 2003

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in reply to the November 20, 2002 Office Action in the above-identified application. Applicants have petitioned concurrently herewith to extend the time for response to that action by three months, up to and including May 20, 2003, and has paid the required fee [37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136(a) and 1.17(a)(3)]. Thus, this response is timely filed.

Prior to examining the claims, please amend the application as follows:¹

¹ An "Appendix to Amendments" is enclosed at Exhibit A, showing the amendments to the claims. In the Appendix, the added portions of text are underscored and the deleted portions are bracketed.

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